



LESSON PLAN

Similarities and Differences

Topic: **Veterans Day, Similarities & Differences** | Grade Level: **Elementary (1st–4th)**
Subject: **Social Studies, Language Arts** | Time: **25 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn that many U.S. service members work in countries around the world, including Afghanistan. Students will learn about Afghanistan and will have the opportunity to identify similarities and differences between that country and the United States.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- "Where Are You Going?" Afghanistan videos from MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- Fact Worksheet
- Flip chart, markers, pencils, paper
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/elem

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access
- World map or globe

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (10 minutes)

- Lead a discussion with students about Veterans Day and Afghanistan.
 - Ask students if they know any veterans? If yes, do they know any serving in other countries? Which countries?
 - Explain that many US military personnel work in other countries, including Afghanistan.
 - Find out if the students know anything about Afghanistan and if they know where it is located.
 - Use map/globe to point out the U.S./their state and Afghanistan.
 - What would it be like to have a parent working that far away from home? Explain that it can help families whose parent is far away to know more about the country their parent is helping.
 - Ask students to identify things they think might be different about life in Afghanistan. Record students' ideas on a flip chart.

Video (4–8 minutes)

- Tell students they are going to watch several short videos about life in Afghanistan.
- Provide students with paper and pencils and ask them to note differences and similarities between the U.S. and Afghanistan as they watch the video.
- Cue the "Where Are You Going?" Afghanistan Video. Play the introductory video, followed by 2–4 additional videos (Food, Clothing, Sports & Games, etc.), depending on available time and interest.

Large-Group Discussion (3–5 minutes)

- On a flip chart, fill in a Venn diagram of characteristics (e.g., food, clothing, sports/games, landscape, arts & crafts) that are unique to U.S./their state, unique to Afghanistan, or shared by both countries. Students can simultaneously fill in a Venn diagram on the same sheet as their notes.
- Review predictions and compare with the Venn diagram.

Worksheet Activity (3–5 minutes)

- Give students the Fact Worksheet and ask them to draw a picture or write a sentence fact about Afghanistan. Fact sheets may be compiled into a "Facts about Afghanistan" class book.

